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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Quartering areas of the 1st Mech Div and the 2d Night Army Brig in
DoeberitzEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 16 August 1954REFERENCES PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS
 This is UNEVALUATED

1. Between 10 June and late June 1954, intensive traffic by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, tank, and motor transport insignia was observed in Altes Lager (2061) in Doeberitz. Between 3 and 21 July, the installation appeared to be less occupied. During the second half of June, small details with small arms frequently marched to the firing ranges near Kesselbruch.

From the number of lighted windows it was concluded that the Cardestern quarters were occupied as previously prior to late June and only partially occupied between 3 and 21 July. No changes were observed at the former kommandatura.

2. Prior to late June, Altes Lager (2061) was occupied as previously by between 2,500 and 3,000 soldiers. Between late June and 11 July, the camp was occupied by 1,500 to 2,000 soldiers. It was the impression that the elements had moved to the Doeberitz troop training grounds. Sentries and other soldiers observed during the period under review wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. On 23 June, a column of 15 heavily soiled six-wheel armored personnel carriers occupied by about 150 soldiers presumably entered the camp from a westerly direction. Individual groups of soldiers totaling about 150 men received field training in the training area south of Hamburger Chaussee. Reports of medium mortars were heard from the direction of the Warendorf target area, 2 km southwest of Altes Lager. On 26 June, driving lights of motor vehicles were seen in, and singing was heard from the area south of Dragenerswald. On 5 July, about 70 unarmed soldiers wearing red-bordered

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black epaulets entered the camp; they came from the abovementioned area; a summer camp was presumably located there.

3. Between 12 June and 20 July, the Adler and Loewen Kaserne (2063) were occupied as previously. Seventy to 80 percent of the windows of the installation were lit on several days of observation. Sentries seen at the two barracks gates always wore red-bordered black epaulets. Training including drill and firing, which was conducted in the training area south of the installations.

4. Between 11 and 24 July, the Loewen Kaserne (2063) was still occupied by about 800 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, and motor transport insignia. The strength figure of Adler Kaserne, which had been occupied by about 1,200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia, increased considerably after the arrival of a new unit, which was equipped with numerous new trucks

5. In mid-June, engineer unit Timoshenko from Loewen Kaserne and Unit Kovalyev from Olympisches Dorf exchanged their quarters. 2

6. Between 15 June and 20 July, the west section of the barracks installation west of Olympisches Dorf (2065) was occupied as previously. Between 70 and 80 percent of the windows of the installation were lit at dusk on several days of observation.

7. Between early July and 12 July, the quarters of the artillery brigade in Olympisches Dorf and the gun sheds on the lake were not occupied to capacity. Between 12 and 20 July, the abovementioned buildings were again occupied to capacity. The brigade appeared to be equipped with ZIS-3 76.2-mm field guns, 85-mm AT guns, and 100-mm AT guns with trucks and YA-12 prime movers.

On 15 July, the new commanding officer of the brigade, a major general, arrived in sedan. He ordered that the neglected gardens in Olympisches Dorf be cleaned and reconditioned. 3 An undetermined number of soldiers daily received instruction on 76.2-mm field guns, voice radio sets and a new type of rapid-fire rifle. The rifle was about 75 cm long, had no jacket and a wider butt than model M-38 and M-44 rifles. The forward bent magazine which was about 15 cm long, was behind the trigger guard. The rifle, probably a semiautomatic rifle, could be used for individual shots or short bursts. 4

8. In June, intensive firing with live ammunition with infantry weapons, tanks, AT guns, howitzers, and rocket launchers was observed at all installations of the Doberitz training grounds.

A tent camp with light and medium AT guns was located south of Flotten Berg. Firing was only occasionally heard between 1 and 7 July. On 14 and 15 July, night exercises were conducted with tanks, AT guns, and howitzers. All approach roads to the training area were blocked and guarded. Between 16 and 21 July, intensive firing started again. During the night on 18 July, tanks, armored scout cars

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and trucks which came from the direction of Altes Lager went to the southern portion of the training area. About 25 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were seen at Kesselbruch. On 20 July, numerous soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulettes with artillery insignia and JS tanks [redacted] engaged in an exercise west of Einsame Pappel, about 1,200 meters southeast of Hasenheidenberg. On 21 July, major troop units, about 8 T-34/85 and JS tanks, 5 x 122-mm field howitzers, and 4 x 85-mm AT guns were assembled on either side of the Dallgow-Doeberitz road. The guns were located in emplacements. In the afternoon, heavy artillery fire was heard from the Ruchbruch area, about 1,500 meters southwest of Altes Lager. Prior to mid-July, some of the 6 large wooden buildings in the wood patch west of Lagerstrasse, between Lagerstrasse und Hadslaweg, had been completed.

9. [redacted]

10. During the second half of July, antitank obstacles had been constructed at the target ranges and firing lanes in the Wolfenburger-Husarenwald area, about 2,000 meters north-northwest of Ferbitz, which so far had been mainly used by AT guns and mortars. The area had been fenced in.

11. Between 14 and 22 June, intensive training was observed at the Doeberitz training grounds, particularly at night. Heavy fire by guns and rocket launchers was heard and tank and gun columns were seen en route to the barracks installation west of Olympisches Dorf and Altes Lager. 6

1. [redacted] Comment. On 10 July, major tank units of the 12th Gds Tank Div from Neuruppin had arrived in Doeberitz and, according to other information, had been quartered in the Adler Kaserne. [redacted] It is possible that the increase of the strength figure of Adler Kaserne mentioned in paragraph 4 resulted from the arrival of these units.

2. [redacted] Comment. The information, according to which the 12th (?) Engr Bn exchanged quarters, probably with the Division Engineer School, has not been confirmed.

3. [redacted] Comment. Major elements of the 2d Light Arty Bde conducted firing on Ruegen Island and in Justerbog prior to 3 July. This accounts for the decreased occupation strength in the installation of the brigade during this period. Units of the brigade also conducted firing practices at Altengrabow between 9 and 16/16 July.

4. [redacted] Comment. In June, a similar rifle was observed with a unit of the 12th Gds Tank Div in Neuruppin. [redacted]

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5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED] Comment. Except for the period between 1 and 7 July, units of the 1st Mech Div apparently continued their intensive field training including night exercises until 22 July. [REDACTED] Training included firing with live ammunition advanced combat firing practices, exercises at up to battalion level, and combined arms exercises. According to other observations, tank units of the division probably moved to Ohrdruf and Loessa on 9 and 12 July and to Justerbog and Altengraben on 22 July; mixed artillery units moved to Justerbog between 20 and 24 July, AAA units to Mustraw on 17 July and elements of the 18th (?) Eng Bn to Lieberose on 21 July. The improvement of the training areas continued. Except for the exchange mentioned in [REDACTED] Comment 2, the information does not indicate any change in the distribution of the units of the division.
- [REDACTED]

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